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SEA MISHAP

BROKAW: Good evening. It sounds like the stuff of novels or movies, a collision between an American aircraft carrier and a Soviet submarine in the middle of the night in the Sea of Japan, but in this case, it's true. The carrier, Kitty Hawk, and a nuclear-powered Soviet submarine--no damage, no casualties. However, Jack Reynolds reports tonight that the collision is a sign of stepped-up Soviet naval activity.

REYNOLDS: The collision took place in darkness in the Sea of Japan, about 150 miles off the Korean peninsula. Shortly afterward, a Russian nuclear-attack submarine was seen moving slowly away from the right side of the Kitty Hawk. According to the Navy, the sub, which had been closely shadowing the carrier, was not using any running lights. It did not put out a distress signal or ask for assistance. There were no casualties aboard the Kitty Hawk and no apparent damage to the carrier. Naval experts say that today's incident is simply one more example of increasingly aggressive Soviet naval activity worldwide. For the first time, the Russians are moving a helicopter carrier, the Leningrad, into the Caribbean. The Leningrad is accompanied by one of the Soviet's latest destroyers. Two Russian Delta-type ballistic missile submarines recently took up positions off the East Coast. Another Russian ballistic missile sub has been operating several hundred miles west of San Diego, and Navy sources say that today an armed Russian intelligence gathering ship is moving south 27 miles off the California coast. U.S. officials say that the Russians have spent the past 20 years developing a worldwide naval capability. Now they're practicing how to project that power frequently very close to the United States. Jack Reynolds, NBC News, at the Pentagon.